

7 July 1965 S

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SOC - Attempt to get back under DCI/USIB.

7 July 1965 memo to DCI signed by [] Acting DDS&T
(drafted by John N. McMahon)

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...while there is some wisdom in centralizing satellite intelligence tasking, such an activity is more appropriately a function of the CIA under the DCI than a responsibility of the NRO. The outline of responsibilities of ~~NRO~~ SOC clearly substantiates the fact that SOC is identified as a unit principally engaged in pursuit of Intel Community's needs and one which we suggest is of "central intelligence in nature.

...Although we feel the functional responsibilities of the SOC themselves are cause enough to place that org within CIA there is a very real and tangible advantage in divorcing the SOC from opnl arms of the NRO. By so doing we would preserve for SOC an independent outlook vis-a-vis operations, thus ensuring the programs remain foremost in responsiveness to USIB needs. With SOC as an integral part of NRO there is the threat that it could lose its objectivity and permit tasking or orbit selection of recon satellites to further development or research goals as opposed to intelligence requirements of the moment.

No action to degrade our intelligence take should be entertained without DCI or USIB evaluation.

Further factor is computer and commo support which SOC is presently receiving from CIA.

In view of the basic responsibilities of SOC its necessary and continuing interface with USIB the role and responsibilities of the DCI and the desirability of independence regarding NRO developmental experiments, it is recommended that the SOC be transferred to the CIA.